Monsieur in a Mouse-Trap:

OR, THE

PARABLE

OF THE

Shark & Herring-Pond.

By the Author of the Magpies.

There is an old English Proverb, that [illegible] nor to all Persons; and that is the [illegible] reason, I suppose, why Men of late publish their Sentiments in Masquerade. We have already seen the Parables of the Bear-baiting, and the Magpies; now give me leave to present you with that of the Shark and the Herring-pond. Since we see Four-footed Beasts, and Birds, Fish doth not amiss in course.

There was a Time, when the *finny Inhabitants* of the Ocean were divided into several Empires, Kingdoms, Commonwealths and Provinces; each *watry Nation* being subject to their respective Sovereigns, even as we here on the Land.

Among the rest, the *Shark* reign'd over the *Gudgeons*; the ravenous, cruel, tyrannical Fish; they silly, tame, timid, despicable Animals, *cut out for Slavery and Contempt*. This *Shark*, or King of the *Gudgeons*, was the worst of all his Race; for he would enter into Leagues with other *Royal Fishes*, his Neighbours, only to render them the more secure, whilst he amass'd up huge Treasures by Oppression of his Subjects, and rais'd great Armies, with which he would suddenly upon his Friends, and Allies to bring them into Contributions and Slavery.

He had one potent Neighbour, who was the *Sovereign among the Fish*, and had many Princes subject to him. The *Shark* bears a great Spite to this *great Fish*, and chose several times to invade, and made great Havock and Destruction among his Subjects; for he could never (the sudden, fearful the nature of that Fish,) and *keep off a whole Land*, as those of the Empire, together, at a Mouthful; and at such times as they were all in Peace, and never dreamed of any such Usage. And so knew that he absolutely design'd the total Ruine of the *Imperial Fish*, and all his Dependants, the *Shark* sent Ambassadors to the *Whale*, a mighty Fish, and who had the largest Dominions, the strongest Armies, and richest Treasury of any *Royal Fish* in the Ocean: A proud Fish also, proud as *Lucifer*; for, disdaining all Earthly Emblems, he wore the *Sun for his Crest*, and stiled himself the *Shadow of God*. To this terrible *Whale*, I say, the *Shark* sent Ambassadors, and made private Leagues with him, against the *Imperial*

Fish, perswading him to Land Armies to invade the Imperial Territories. Thus whilst the *Imperial Fish* was tasked on one side, in defending himself and his Empire against the Incursions of the *Whale*, the *Shark* takes the Opportunity, and breaking all his Treaties of Peace, leaps suddainly into the Bowels of the Empire, plundering, murthering and desolating all, wherefoever he came.

Yet the *Shark*, not content thus to ruin the *Imperial Fish*, sets upon another King among the *Scaly Nations*, that was a near Relation, Friend and Allye of the *Imperial Fish*: He sends Armies, and invades the Territories of his King also, who was called the *Sea-Bull*; lays waste his Dominions, leads his Subjects into Captivity, and does him all the Mischief that his Malice, Ambition, Covetousness and Pride could prompt him to.

[redacted] Nations, [redacted] Depopulations were committed by the *Shark*, the *Whale*, and their Armies, so that the Sea was dyed red with Blood.

Whilst these things were transacting, it so fell out, that the *Crocodile*, [redacted] the *Whitings*, *Salmons*, *Maykrills*, *Pikes*, and other Fish, having by various cunning Traits, and wheadling Artifices, perswaded that innocent sort of Fish, that he was a *Dolphin*, and no [redacted] them also with an Oath, that they [redacted] their ancient, native Priviledges and Liberty in all things. So that the [redacted], deluded by these fair Words, and the [redacted] Stories of the *Crocodile*, and [redacted] by the *Salmons*, *Pikes*, *Herrings*, *Eels*, and other Fish, whose dominions that [redacted] should [redacted] them.

[redacted] the person of Thus the *Crocodile* began to appear in his naked Colours, and not only broke his Word with the *Whitings*, but also stretch'd forth his Tail to the *Maykrills*, and entrench'd upon their Privileges. He also made a private League with the *Shark*, the *Whale*, and the *Alligators* of the *Mediterranean*; which gave great Suspicion to his own Subjects, as well as to the neighbouring Princes and States among the Fish. Great were the Discontents of the *Maykrills*, the *Whitings*, and other Fish under the *Crocodile*'s Dominion: They found they were mistaken in their King, who now prov'd a *real Crocodile*, a Fish of Prey, and daily imposed on his Subjects such Laws and Offices, as plainly tended to enslave both them and their Posterity. This made them cabal, and lay their Heads together how to save themselves from imminent Ruin: So at length it was agreed upon, among the *Maykrills*, *Salmons*, *Pikes*, *Eels*, and other Fish under the *Crocodile*'s Dominion, to send Ambassadors to the *Dolphin*, and invite him to come and deliver them from the *Crocodile*'s *Tyranny*; for indeed, the *Dolphin* had a kind of Title to the Government of the *Whitings*, &c. being descended of the Blood of their ancient Kings. So the *Dolphin* makes preparation to go against the *Crocodile*, being assisted by the Commonwealth of *Herrings*, among whom this Prince kept his Court. In a Word, Upon the first Approach of the *Royal Dolphin*, with his Army of *Herrings*, the *Crocodile*'s Subjects deserted him, and join'd the *Dolphin*'s Army; so that the *Crocodile* was forc'd to swim away, and take Sanctuary with the *Shark*.

[redacted] News of the [redacted] of the [redacted], and the [redacted], was quickly spread through the Scaly Nations, and all rejoyc'd at the good Success of the *Dolphin*, who was soon chosen King of the *Whitings*, *Maykrills*, *Salmons*, &c. Then Ambassadors were sent from all Parts to congratulate his Accession to the *Crocodile*'s Throne, and to enter into League with Him, against the *Shark*, *the Whale*, *the Crocodile*, and the Alligators of the *Mediterranean*. Armies were raised on all sides, and many fierce Battels were fought between them. The *Dolphin* was look'd upon as the great Restorer and Deliverer of all the Confederate Fish, from the cruel Oppressions and Encroachments of the *Whale* and the *Shark*. But in regard the *Maykrills* (who were chiefly instrumental in bringing the *Dolphin* to the Crown) proved treacherous, and held a private Correspondence with the *Shark* and the *Crocodile*, other Measures were taken by the Imperial Fish, the *Dolphin*, the Commonwealth of *Herrings*, the Sea-Bull, and the rest of the Confederate Fish. And because they could not entrust their Secret Counsels to any *Ambassador's* Envoys, or Agents, without manifest danger of Discovery; therefore they all resolved to meet together in Person, appointing the *Herring-Pond* to be the place of their Rendezvous.

In the mean while it was thought convenient for the *Dolphin* to send an Ambassador to the *Whale*, in Quality of a Mediator for Peace between the *Whale* and the Imperial Fish. When the *Shark* heard of this, he order'd his Ambassador at the *Whale*'s Court to oppose the Proposals of the *Dolphin*'s Ambassador, with all his

his might: but all his Endeavours proved ineffectual. For the Dolphin's Ambassador was kindly receiv'd by the Whale, and the Overtures of Peace were hearkned to, which gave great Encouragement to the Confederate Fish to hope, That an Accomodation might be concluded between the Imperial Fish and the Whale, whereby the former would be in a better Capacity to make War upon the Shark, his powerful Neighbour and old Enemy.

Well, the Time came, when the Confederated Sovereigns of the Fish were to meet together; great Preparations were made to honour so Royal and Illustrious a Congress; and especially to welcom the Dolphin to the Herring-Pond, who was made Guardian of this Friendly League. In fine, they meet at the Time and Place appointed, not without great danger of the Dolphin's Life or Liberty, who as he was swimming to the place of Rendevous, happened to be benighted, and forc'd to lie all on a Shelf of Ice, so that he could not disingage Himself in less than 18 Hours time, whereby he was liable to have been starv'd to Death with Hunger and Cold, and likewise to have been kill'd or taken Prisoner by any of the Shark's Scouts, who used to lie in wait in those parts. But Neptune and Heaven were kinder to him, and next Day he happily got rid of this Ramora, and arrived safe at the Herring-Pond, to the inexpressible Joy and Satisfaction of all the Fish in those parts.

Monsieur the Shark finding all Things to succeed well to the Confederated Fishes, and that he himself was like to be caught in a Net, they having surrounded Him with Armies on all Hands, and having made a fair Step towards the concluding of a Peace with the Whale; considering these things, I say, he sent an Ambassador to the Congress at the Herring-Pond, with specious Pretences, and insinuating Whedles, in order to an Accomodation. This Ambassador was a Fish of no small Quality and Extraction; a cunning Statesman and good Orator: (For the Fish do not come behind the Birds and Beasts in all manner of Accomplishments.) He addresses himself therefore to that August Assembly in Words to this effect:

Most Serene and Illustrious Princes, and High and Mighty Lords, &c.

THE Shark my Master being desirous to prevent for the future the spilling of the blood of any Fish, from the Whale to the Millers Thumb, has taken into serious consideration, the [illegible] Peace, and [illegible] of all the Differences between him and the Confederate Sovereigns of the Sea; and having received full Power and Authority from his Master in all things to his last and final Resolution, [illegible] for the better discharging of his Confidence, he [illegible] to acknowledge, in his Name, That he is the first Aggressor, and that the insatiable Thirst of Empire has carried Him beyond the Bounds of Justice and the Laws of the Sea. Wherefore being desirous to make a Peace, and regain his ancient Friendship, he has made his last Will and Testament, wherein I here present your Royal Highnesses, and your High and Mightinesses, with a Duplicate Copy, to the end you may see, and understand the Contents thereof.

A Copy of the Shark's Last Will and Testament.

IN the Name of Neptune and Thetis and all the Sea-Gods and Goddesses, &c. I Ludovick Rhedomontado Shark, Prince of the Ocean and other Watry People, finding my Time begin to draw nigh that I must leave this World, and go to the Centre of the Earth, there to remain in a long Sleep, during all the Days of Eternity, and not knowing whether I shall ever have the Opportunity to make my last Will and Testament.

Imprimis, I bequeath all the Bones of the Herrings, Turbets, Mullets, Plaise, Flounders and others, with whom I and my Armies have had Skirmishes in the Countries of the Imperial Fish, for Sea-Bull my dear Friends and Allies; I do I recommend these Bones to the surviving Fishes and Relations of the Fishes to me slain'd to be disposed of at their Discretion.

2. Item, I bequeath to the Imperial Fish, the Sea-Bull and their Friends and

Monsieur Gargoile the Shark's Ambassador having thus ended his Audience, [illegible] was order'd to withdraw, whilst they consulted about an Answer. There needed no great Deliberation in an Affair, which they were all provided for; wherefore after some time taken for Form's sake, the Shark's Ambassador was call'd in again, and the Speaker of the Congress told him in the Name of the Princes and States there assembled together, That the Shark, the said Ambassador's Master, had so often broke his Word, violated his Promises and Oaths, that they were all unanimously resolved never to treat with him again, but to take those measures as should seem most expedient to themselves without giving him any further Account, Reason or Answer.

Away swims poor Pilgarlick the Gurnard with this short Reply to his Master the Shark, who found himself caught in a Trap, and knew not which way to escape. He flutter'd and flounc'd from one side of his Trap to another, like a Captive Mouse, but all in vain; for the Herring, the Whiting, the Salmon, the Flounder, and innumerable other sort of Fish had being'd him, and hem'd him in, resolving every one to have a touch at his old Jaw ere before long. What the Issue was, you shall hear as soon as I receive the Intelligence from Neptune's Courrier. In the mean while expect the Parable of the Top-Knots.

Advertisements.

NExt Wednesday being the 11th of this present February, will be publish'd the Parable of the Top-Knots.

The History of the Royal Congress at the Hague, with the Names, Characters, and Equipage of the Soveraign Princes that compose this most August Assembly, together with an Account of the Glorious Camp, and Chain of State. The several curious and admirable Firworks; the many triumphal Arches, with the other great Preparations made for his Majesty of Great Britain, with an exact Draught of the Manner of King William's entring into the Hague, and Reception by the States General. Translated from the Dutch Copy, Printed at Leyden.

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